CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic system, comprising:

an electronics unit;

a temperature control logic coupled to said electronics unit; and

a fan coupled to said temperature control unit;

wherein said temperature control unit is capable of implementing a plurality of temperature control protocols, each protocol effecting the speed of said fan; and

wherein said temperature control unit implements a first temperature control protocol upon system initialization and changes to a second temperature control protocol if said electronics unit asserts a temperature signal, said first temperature control protocol being quieter on average than said second temperature control protocol.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said temperature control unit implements a third temperature control protocol that is louder than said second temperature control protocol.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said second temperature control protocol is implemented the first time the temperature signal is asserted and the third temperature control protocol is implemented the second time the temperature signal is asserted.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said first temperature control protocol comprises a single fan speed that does not change with temperature.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said first temperature control protocol comprises at least two fan speeds, a higher fan speed being selected when the temperature, recorded by a temperature sensor, exceeds a first temperature threshold and a lower fan speed selected when the temperature is below the first temperature threshold.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said second temperature control protocol comprises at least two fan speeds, a higher fan speed being selected when the temperature, recorded by a temperature sensor, exceeds a second temperature threshold and a lower fan speed selected when the temperature is below the second temperature threshold, said second temperature threshold being less than the first temperature threshold.

7. A computer system, comprising:

a CPU;

a fan controller coupled to said CPU; and

a fan coupled to said fan controller;

wherein said CPU is capable of implementing a plurality of temperature control protocols, each protocol effecting the speed of said fan; and

wherein said CPU implements a first temperature control protocol upon system initialization and changes to a second temperature control protocol if said electronics unit asserts a temperature signal, said first temperature control protocol being quieter on average than said second temperature control protocol.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said CPU implements a third temperature control protocol that is louder than said second temperature control protocol.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said second temperature control protocol is implemented the first time the temperature signal is asserted and the third temperature control protocol is implemented the second time the temperature signal is asserted.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein said first temperature control protocol comprises a single fan speed that does not change with temperature.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein said first temperature control protocol comprises at least two fan speeds, a higher fan speed being selected when the temperature, recorded by a temperature sensor, exceeds a first temperature threshold and a lower fan speed selected when the temperature is below the first temperature threshold.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said second temperature control protocol comprises at least two fan speeds, a higher fan speed being selected when the temperature, recorded by a temperature sensor, exceeds a second temperature threshold and a lower fan speed selected when the temperature is below the second temperature threshold, said second temperature threshold being less than the first temperature threshold.

13. The system of claim 7 wherein said CPU internally monitors its temperature and asserts the temperature signal which indicates the CPU's internal temperature has reached a threshold.

14. A method of controlling temperature in an electronic system, comprising:

(a) initializing the system to a first temperature control protocol;

(b) determining that a temperature associated with the electronic system has reached a threshold; and

(c) switching from the first temperature control protocol to a second temperature control protocol, said first temperature control protocol being quieter on average than said second temperature control protocol.

15. The method of claim 14 further including switching to a third temperature control protocol that is louder than said second temperature control protocol.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein switching to the third temperature control protocol occurs if it is determined that the threshold has again been reached.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein said first temperature control protocol comprises a single fan speed that does not change with temperature.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein said first temperature control protocol comprises at least two fan speeds, a higher fan speed being selected when the temperature, recorded by a temperature sensor, exceeds a first temperature threshold and a lower fan speed selected when the temperature is below the first temperature threshold.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said second temperature control protocol comprises at least two fan speeds, a higher fan speed being selected when the temperature, recorded by a temperature sensor, exceeds a second temperature threshold and a lower fan speed selected when the temperature is below the second temperature threshold, said second temperature threshold being less than the first temperature threshold.